

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 475**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Brown**

February 19, 2013

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An act to amend Section 52379 of the Education Code, relating to pupil counseling.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 475, as introduced, Brown. Pupil counseling: supplemental school counseling.

Existing law establishes the Middle and High School Supplemental Counseling Program, and requires the governing board of a school district that maintains any of grades 7 to 12, inclusive, as a condition of receiving funds appropriated for purposes of that program, to adopt a counseling program at a public meeting that includes, among other things, a provision for a counselor to meet with each pupil to explain the academic and deportment records of the pupil, his or her educational options, the coursework and academic progress needed for satisfactory completion of middle or high school, and the availability of career guidance activities. Funds appropriated in the annual Budget Act for the purposes of the program are required to be allocated to school districts based on an equal amount per pupil enrolled in the district in the prior fiscal year based on the fall California Basic Educational Data System enrollment data in grades 7 to 12, inclusive, with certain minimum-grant exceptions.

This bill, instead, would require the appropriation to be allocated based on the needs of pupils as indicated by the number of pupils who failed either section of the high school exit examination in the most recent grade 10 administration of that examination, and would require

the allocation to be calculated pro rata based on the number of pupils who failed either section of the high school exit examination in the most recent grade 10 administration of that examination, with certain minimum-grant exceptions. The bill would require school districts receiving funding under this program to provide matching funds on a one-to-one basis.

The bill would specify duties authorized to be performed by a counselor position funded under this program.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1     SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the  
2     following:
- 3     (1) California ranks 50th among the 50 states in  
4     counselor-to-pupil ratio with a ratio of one counselor per 954  
5     pupils.
- 6     (2) Studies have revealed that pupils who met with a school  
7     counselor several times during the school year to discuss college  
8     were much more likely to attend a four-year postsecondary  
9     educational institution.
- 10    (3) School counselors are integral figures in ensuring college  
11    readiness and meeting high school graduation requirements because  
12    they counsel pupils into appropriate classes.
- 13    (4) School counselors are integral to the total educational  
14    program. They provide proactive leadership that engages all  
15    stakeholders in the delivery of programs and services to help pupils  
16    achieve success in school. Professional school counselors align  
17    with the mission of the school to support the academic achievement  
18    of all pupils as they prepare for the ever-changing world of the  
19    21st century. This mission is accomplished through the design,  
20    development, implementation, and evaluation of a comprehensive,  
21    developmental, and systematic school counseling program.
- 22    (5) California's overall high school graduation rate is  
23    approximately 71 percent with the graduation rates for African  
24    American and Latino pupils even lower, 60 percent for Latino  
25    pupils and 56.6 percent for African American pupils.
- 26    (b) It is therefore the intent of the Legislature to increase the  
27    number of credentialed school counselors in high schools in the

bottom 25 percent of the state in academic performance, so that each qualifying high school would receive one counselor position dedicated to work with pupils on preparing them to obtain a degree at an institution of higher education or a certificate at a technical institution.

SEC. 2. Section 52379 of the Education Code is amended to read:

52379. (a) Funds appropriated in the annual Budget Act for the purposes of this chapter shall be allocated to school districts based on ~~an equal amount per pupil enrolled in the district in the prior fiscal year; the needs of pupils as indicated by the number of pupils who failed either section of the high school exit examination in the most recent grade 10 administration of that examination. Allocation to school districts shall be calculated pro~~ rata based on the ~~fall California Basic Educational Data System (CBEDS) enrollment data, in grades 7 to 12, inclusive, number of pupils who failed either section of the high school exit examination in the most recent grade 10 administration of that examination,~~ with the following minimum-grant exceptions:

(1) Five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for each schoolsite that has 100 or fewer pupils enrolled in any of grades 7 to 12, inclusive.

(2) Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for each schoolsite that has at least 101, but not more than 200, pupils enrolled in any of grades 7 to 12, inclusive.

(3) Thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) or an amount per pupil enrolled, whichever is greater, for each schoolsite with more than 200 pupils enrolled in any of grades 7 to 12, inclusive.

(b) (1) *In order to be eligible to receive funding under this section, a high school is required to rank among the lowest 25 percent of high schools in the state with respect to the percentage of its pupils who failed either section of the high school exit examination in the most recent grade 10 administration of that examination. A school district with a high school or high schools that are receiving funding under this section shall provide matching funds in order to fully fund the counselor position, including, but not necessarily limited to, matching funds, on a one-to-one basis, for the provision of salary and benefits and to defray other necessary program expenses.*

(2) *A participating high school shall receive one counselor position dedicated to work with pupils on preparing them to obtain*

1 a degree at an institution of higher education or a certificate at a  
2 technical institution. A counselor position funded under this  
3 program shall not be used in the regular rotation of counselors at  
4 the participating high school. A counselor position funded under  
5 this program is authorized to provide, but is not necessarily limited  
6 to, all of the following services:

7 (A) Working with pupils, in conjunction with faculty and staff,  
8 college and university recruiters, and community-based personnel,  
9 to provide pupils and their families with college preparation  
10 workshops.

11 (B) Providing one-on-one college preparatory advising.

12 (C) Conducting college application workshops, which may  
13 include, but are not necessarily limited to, discussion of high school  
14 graduation requirements, the “a-g” courses required for admission  
15 to the University of California and other institutions of higher  
16 education, college entrance requirements, and how to read a  
17 transcript.

18 (D) Conducting financial aid workshops, which may include,  
19 but are not necessarily limited to, helping pupils and their families  
20 to understand what types of financial aid are available for colleges,  
21 discussion of financial aid programs, such as the Cal Grant and  
22 Cash for College programs, the process of applying for financial  
23 aid, and how to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student  
24 Aid (FAFSA).

25 (E) Conducting family information workshops, which may  
26 include, but are not necessarily limited to, discussions with families  
27 about how to help their children at each grade level to prepare  
28 for and stay on track for college. The goal of these workshops  
29 would be to help families understand higher education options,  
30 the college application process, and college entrance examination  
31 requirements.

32 (F) Conducting university and college campus visits for pupils.

33 (G) Working with outside outreach and recruitment programs,  
34 including, but not necessarily limited to, the California Student  
35 Opportunity Access Program (Cal-SOAP), the Early Academic  
36 Outreach Program (EAOP), and University of California and  
37 California State University outreach programs.

38 (H) Assisting pupils and their families in filling out and  
39 submitting grade-point average information release forms for the  
40 Cal Grant Program.

1     (c) *A school district that received funding under the program*  
2     *in the first 2006–07 grant cycle may continue to receive funds in*  
3     *future years to maintain counseling programs at the 2006–07 first*  
4     *cycle funding level if the district meets all other conditions of the*  
5     *program.*

6     ~~(b)~~

7     (d) Funds allocated pursuant to this section shall supplement,  
8     and not supplant, expenditures made by a school district for school  
9     counseling programs.

10    ~~(e)~~

11    (e) For purposes of this section, a charter school is not eligible  
12    to receive a minimum grant but instead shall receive an amount  
13    per pupil enrolled in grades 7 to 12, inclusive.

14    ~~(d)~~

15    (f) Funds appropriated in the annual Budget Act for the purposes  
16    of this chapter shall be used to provide supplemental counseling  
17    services delivered by personnel who hold a valid pupil personnel  
18    services credential.